

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3052  
USIA WASHDC  
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2206

USIS FOR IBS/RHINE AND IWE/HELGERTSON

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS GR  
SUBJ: GREEK GOVERNMENT CONCERNED BY VOA BROADCAST OF  
ZIGDIS STATEMENT BEFORE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. SUMMARY. GREEK MFA OFFICIAL CALLED IN CHARGE  
APRIL 10 AT PRIME MINISTER'S INSTRUCTION TO EXPRESS  
CONCERN AT VOA BROADCAST OF STATEMENT CRITIZING GOG MADE  
BY OPPOSITION FIGURE ZIGDIS BEFORE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON MARCH 27. BROADCAST WAS CHARACTERIZED AS  
UNFRIENDLY AND HELPFUL TO COMMUNISTS AND OFFICIAL SAID ACT COULD  
BE PREJUDICIAL TO US FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS IN GREECE.  
CHARGE REMINDED MINISTRY OFFICIAL OF FREE PRESS AND POLITICAL  
DISCUSSION IN US AND SAID CENSORSHIP OF US NEWS BY  
VOA WAS OUT OF QUESTION. MINISTRY OFFICIAL IMPLIED  
GREEK CONCERN STEMMED FROM SENSITIVITY OF GREEK  
MILITARY TO FOREIGN CRITICISM. END SUMMARY.

2. MIGLIARESSIS, DIRECTOR THIRD DIRECTION (WE AND  
AMERICAS), ASKED CHARGE TO CALL AT MFA APRIL 10 TO  
DISCUSS VOA BROADCAST MARCH 28 OF STATEMENT BY  
JOHN ZIGIDS, FORMER CU MINISTER, BEFORE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS MARCH 27. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS  
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MIGLIARESSIS SAID PRIME MINISTER WAS EMBARRASED THAT

VOA WHICH ENJOYED USE OF FACILITIES IN GREECE AND WHICH HAD ALWAYS BEEN REGARDED BY GREEKS AS VOICE OF FREEDOM AGAINST THE COMMUNIST THREAT WOULD VOICE A VICIOUS ATTACK ON A FRIENDLY AND ALLIED GOVERNMENT THEREBY AIDING THE COMMUNIST CAUSE. THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD RECONSIDER ITS POLICY OF BROADCASTING SUCH DECLARATIONS. MIGLIARESSIS RHETORICALLY ASKED IF THE USG THOUGHT IT WOULD RECEIVE MILITARY FACILITIES IN GREECE SUCH AS HOMEPORING IF THE COMMUNISTS WERE IN POWER AND WHETHER OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD TOLERATE SUCH ACTION. IF SO, PERHAPS THE US SHOULD PUT ITS VOA INSTALLATIONS THERE INSTEAD OF GREECE.

3. CHARGE REPLIED VOA WAS SIMPLY BROADCASTING THE NEWS NOT STATING A POLICY IN THIS CASE. HE POINTED OUT THAT MIGLIARESSIS, HAVING SERVED IN THE US AND WESTERN EUROPE, MUST BE WELL AWARE THAT US HAD A FREE PRESS AND OPEN DISCUSSION IN CONGRESS AND THAT IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR THE VOA TO CENSOR NEWS IN THE US, ESPECIALLY CONGRESSIONAL NEWS, IN DEFERENCE TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL FEELINGS OUTSIDE US. CHARGE ALSO ASKED WHY GOG, IF IT CONSIDERED OLD POLITICIANS PASSE' MADE SUCH A FUSS OVER ZIGDIS STATEMENT. USG RECEIVED MUCH HARDER CRITICISM FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE US. FINALLY, HE ASKED WHETHER GOG CONCERN HAD BEEN PROMPTD BY PUBLIC REACTION TO VOA BROADCAST.

4. MIGLIARESSIS ADMITTED THAT GOG WAS AWARE OF BROADCAST BECAUSE IT REGULARLY MONITORED VOA, BBC AND DEUTSCHE WELLE. HE SAID HE WELL UNDERSTOODUS HAD FREE PRESS AND POLITICAL PROCESS BUT IT WAS UP TO EXECUTIVE BRANCH WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN POLICY TO POINT OUT TO CONGRESS THAT INVITING NATIONALS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY TO ATTACK THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT COULD PREJUDICE US INTERESTS IN THAT COUNTRY. HE ADDED THAT THE GREEK ARMED FORCES WERE VERY SENSITIVE TO SUCH OCCURRENCES, CONSIDERING THAT THE NATIONAL HONOR WAS AFFRONTED.

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5. COMMENT. MIGLIARESSIS WAS INSTRUCTED TO DO A JOB AND HE DID IT. HIS REFERENCE TO THE SENSITIVITY OF THE GREEK MILITARY REVEALED THE PROBABLE ORIGIN OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS. AS REPORTED ATHENS AIRGRAM-101 EDITORIALS HAVE NOW APPEARED IN AKROPOLIS AND ELEFTHEROS COSMOS VIOLENTLY ATTACKING ZIGIDS. BRANDIN

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## Message Attributes

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